

Amendments to the specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, lines 23-25 and page 6, lines 1-8 as follows:

The prior art configuration of communication network 100 presents several problems. For instance, base station system 150 is unable to communicate with MSC 110, and base station system 140 is unable to communicate with MSC 120. Additionally, a service provider is prevented from adding a new base station system to communicate with MSC 110 over backhaul network 130 unless the base station system transfers communications according to the proprietary format understood by MSC 110. Such a restriction limits the vendors from which the service provider can acquire a new base station system. Furthermore, communication network 100 is unable to execute important call processing operations such as call handoffs because MSCs 110 and 120 are unable to communicate with base station systems 150 and 140 respectively.

Please amend the paragraph on page 8, lines 19-23 as follows:

Advantageously, communication network 200 allows for base station system 250 ~~transfers to transfer~~ call traffic in the second format. Additionally, communication network 200 allows network controller 210 to process call traffic from base station systems from multiple vendors. The ability to add base station systems from different vendors provides flexibility to service providers and reduces costs for service providers.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 2-13 as follows:

Figure 4 illustrates wireless communications network 400 in an embodiment of the invention. Wireless communications network 400 includes mobile switching center (MSC) 410, MSC ~~420~~ 480, base station system 440, base station system 445, base station system 450, communication device 460, and backhaul network 470. MSC 410 includes call processing system 420 and translator system 430. MSCs 410 and ~~420~~ 480 are coupled to communication network 405. Communication network 405 could be a data network, an internet or intranet, or the PSTN. Base station systems 440 and 445 are coupled to call processing system 420 over backhaul network 470. Base station system 450 is coupled to translator system 430 over backhaul network 470. Base station system 450 is also coupled to MSC ~~420~~ 480. Translator system 430 is coupled to call processing system 420. Translator system 430 is also coupled to MSC ~~420~~ 480 over backhaul network 470.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 14-21 as follows:

Communication device 460 is in communication with base station systems 440, 445, and 450 over a wireless communication standard well known to those skilled in the art. Backhaul network 470 may include other devices, systems, or components not shown for the sake of brevity. Similarly, base station systems 440, 445, and 450 may include additional elements, such as digital signal processors, transceivers, and other components well known to those in the art. ~~And~~ An MSC in this embodiment may include a radio network controller (RNC), a base station controller (BSC), or some other control system.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 22-25 and page 10, lines 1-4 as follows:

Communication device 460 could be any device capable of transmitting communications receivable by base station systems 440, 445, and 450. For example, communication device 460 could comprise a wireless phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), two-way radio, or a portable computer. Base station systems 440, 445, and 450 are base station systems capable of receiving wireless communications transmitted from communication device 460 and transferring the communications to MSCs 410 and ~~420~~ 480. MSCs 410 and ~~420~~ 480 are systems capable of controlling calls over wireless network 400.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 5-14 as follows:

MSC 410 and base station systems 440 and 445 are from a first vendor. MSC ~~420~~ 480 and base station system 450 are from a second vendor. Base station systems 440 and 445 transfer call traffic in a different format than base station system 450. A format could comprise the arrangement of data within call traffic. Specifically, base station systems 440 and 445 communicate with call processing system 420 according to a proprietary format implemented by the first vendor. Base station system 450 communicates with MSC ~~420~~ 480 and translator system 430 according to an IOS format implemented by the second vendor. One example of the IOS format comprises A3 and A7. Translator system 430 is a system capable of converting call traffic between the proprietary format and the IOS format.

Please amend the paragraph on page 11, lines 12-18 as follows:

In an embodiment of the invention, translator system 430 receives call traffic in the proprietary format from either base station system 440 or 445 for a call. Base station system 450 transfers call traffic in the IOS format for the call to MSC ~~420~~ 480. Translator system 430 converts the call traffic from the proprietary format to the IOS format and transfers the IOS traffic over backhaul network 470 to MSC ~~420~~ 480. MSC ~~420~~ 480 then processes the IOS call traffic for the call from base stations 440, 445, and 450.